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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, from the rising of the sun until its setting, You remain the same. We find solace in your changeless faithfulness. Your mercies sustain us each hour.

Lord, do not keep silent as our lawmakers grapple with the great issues of our time. Reveal Your purposes to them, guiding them on the paths of courage and obedience. Lord, remind them that You appointed them to their work, and they are accountable to You. May they not forget that You are the Supreme Judge of the Universe, in whose presence humanity must one day stand.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as Democrats in the House of Representatives work to pass Speaker PELOSI's prescription drug bill, I remind my colleagues that for any bill to become law, it must be bipartisan and President Trump must be able to sign it.

Unlike current House efforts, the Grassley-Wyden Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act fits the bill. It is bipartisan, and President Trump has endorsed it. My Republican colleagues in the House recently pointed to it—in other words, the Grassley-Wyden bill—during an Energy and Commerce Committee hearing as the only path forward to lower prescription drug prices. I welcome this support from Republicans in the House of Representatives. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week will provide an opportunity for our Democratic colleagues to prove that their longstanding goal of impeaching the President is not—not getting in the way of their ability to legislate. The Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader have taken pains to insist that their party's impeachment obsession will not block important business for the American people.

Well, we are going to find out. As soon as the Senate completes the domestic funding legislation we are currently considering, we will turn back toward national defense and give Senate Democrats another chance to advance the funding for our Armed Forces, which they chose to filibuster just last month.

In other words, this week will bring a litmus test. Are Washington Democrats so consumed by impeachment that they cannot even fund our men and women in uniform? Do our service-members really need to be pawns in the Democrats' fight with the White House?

It is hard to imagine a more basic legislative responsibility than funding

the Department of Defense. We need to fund the tools and training that our men and women in uniform need to carry out their missions. We need to give our military commanders the resources to keep pace with major competitors like China, which has nearly doubled its military spending over the past decade.

In recent days, our Democratic colleagues have been publicly railing against the administration's approach to Syria and the Middle East, without, I would note, offering much of a strategy of their own. But if they vote to block defense funding later this week, they will literally be obstructing the very funding to carry out the missions they say are so important.

The last few days have shown us especially clearly that American forces remain in harm's way every day, and their missions do not pause just because some politicians don't find it convenient to fund them. We owe the Pentagon the budgetary certainty it needs to maintain the readiness of our military forces and to invest in the capabilities needed to sustain our military edge into the future.

We also need to be good, reliable partners to our friends and allies.

Get this. This appropriations bill would fund \$250 million in military assistance for Ukraine under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. If that sounds familiar, that would be the exact same program that Democrats are currently trying to impeach the President for allegedly slow-walking.

So welcome to Washington, where Democrats try to impeach President Trump for supposedly slow-walking aid for Ukraine and simultaneously filibuster the funding for the exact same Ukraine program in the Senate. Welcome to Washington.

I think it is safe to say that would elevate irony to a whole new art form. I hope it doesn't come to that. I hope, instead, that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will land on the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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